cal Survey of India Employees' Association, Calcutta expressing concern over setting up of Work Measurement Committee (SIU) to review the existing staff strength of Botanical Survey of India;

(b) if so, what is Association's apprehension about the Work Measurement Committee;

(c) whether Government would ensure that as a result of recommendations of the said Work Measurement Committee there would not be any adverse effect on the working of the Botanical Survey of India; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association, representing Group-C&D employees of Botanical Survey of India, apprehends that the study by the Work Measurement Committee would entail reduction of staff strength.

(c) and (d) No adverse effect on the working of the Botanical Survey of India is expected. It is expected that additional work should be generated in the VIII Five Year Plan. On the other hand additional staff or upgradation of staff cannot be considered till the Work Measurement Committee carries out an analysis of the work load. If any surplus staff is found by the Committee, attempt would be made to absorb them in vacancies available.

Memorandum from Madras Labour Union and B & C Mill Staff Union regarding Hazards to Environment

881. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint Memorandum dated 8-2-1991 from Madras Labour Union and B & C Mill Staff Union, Madras has been received by the Minister about hazards to environment and health that would be caused by the effiluents releasd by the process house of the BINNY LIMITED, Madras who propose to shift the same to Bhuvangiri in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to stop the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Discontinuance of Passport Services

882. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for discontinuing Passport services in most of the centres in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware of acute hardships caused to the citizens, specially those Gulf returnees who desire to go back to Gulf, in order to get foreign remittance to the country; and

(c) by when Government propose to resume these services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The passport services have not been discontinued in various Passport Offices in the country. However, in the case of persons repatriated from Gulf area and Liberia, their cases have to be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Passport Act, 1967.

(b) and (c) The Government are aware of the problems of the Gulf returnees particularly about the passport services. Necessary steps are, however, being taken to solve the problem.